

So the National Institutes of Health gets my porker of the week award this week.

UNCONSTITUTIONAL POWER OF IRS

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Madam Speaker, only the IRS can conduct an audit of your financial records without a warrant. Only the IRS can levy penalties without a court order. Only the IRS can seize your bank account without a judgment. Only the IRS can actually take your home, take your home, without due process.

Now, if that is not enough to tax your 1040, check this out: When you decide to fight this pack of bullies, you go to court, Tax Court, with the IRS; you are considered guilty and have to prove yourself innocent.

Beam me up. Ladies and gentlemen, there is only one reason for the unconstitutional power of the Internal Revenue Service: The Congress of the United States of America. Think about it. I yield back the balance of these taxes.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind people in the gallery they should not express approval or disapproval during the proceedings.

GOVERNMENT DOES NOT NEED ANOTHER NEW BUILDING

(Mr. SANFORD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SANFORD. Madam Speaker, late last night we had the debate on an amendment that I proposed to prevent the construction of yet another Washington office building, this one being \$40 million and in size 350,000 square feet. For those of my colleagues who were wisely asleep at the hour, I would say it still makes a lot of sense for a couple reasons.

First, GSA already controls 644 million square feet of office space in the United States. That is the equivalent of all the office space in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, and Houston combined. Do we need another office building?

Second, even if it is the right thing to do, now is not the right time to do it. That is why the National Capital Planning Commission said "No, don't do it, wait until after the farm bill."

Third, it is what the budget asks for.

Fourth, it is what National Taxpayers Union and Citizens for a Sound Economy think to be a good idea.

CONGRESS SHOULD BE MORE FAMILY FRIENDLY

(Mr. ROEMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROEMER. Madam Speaker, last night we worked here in the House of Representatives well past midnight, and last night is no different from any other night from January 4, when we went into session. Fifty-four percent of the time we have adjourned after 9 o'clock at night since January 4.

Now, for the first 3 months we expected that. We knew working on the contract we would have late nights. But Speaker GINGRICH said on his first day here on the floor, right behind me, "We are going to set schedules we stick to so families can count on time together."

Now, Madam Speaker, the only time we see our families is when we take a picture of them out of our wallets and look at the frayed pictures.

I think that we need predictable schedules. We want to work hard. We have been in more than 300 hours over last year at this time. We need predictability. Let us have one night a week that we are out by 6 p.m. and have it predictable. Let us roll votes, and let us make sure we come in and start work at 8 o'clock in the morning for 1 minutes. I think that is the hour that America starts to work.

THE ISTOOK, MCINTOSH, AND ERHLICH AMENDMENT

(Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak in favor of efforts to reform our grant-making process—specifically, the Istook, McIntosh, and Ehrlich legislation.

I join my colleagues in believing that we engage in a dangerous enterprise when Government selectively subsidizes particular interests and lobbying organizations. It raises a question about the fundamental integrity and impartiality of Government.

What this legislation addresses is the fact that certain groups have simultaneously enjoyed the advantages of exemption from tax payments and the statutory right to spend an unlimited amount on lobbying Congress. This is wrong and has led to a mistrust of Government by the American people.

Ordinary citizens do not enjoy all of these benefits simultaneously and this kind of preferential treatment can only serve to maximize the influence and power of certain privileged lobbying groups at the expense of the people we were elected to serve. In my view, organizations should have to choose between being tax-exempt, self-interested lobbying organizations or administrators of Federal grants.

TRICKLE-DOWN ALREADY PROVEN UNWORKABLE

(Mr. KLINK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KLINK. Madam Speaker, back in the 1980's Republican Ronald Reagan told us decrease taxes for the wealthy, investment will go up, wealth will trickle down, America will prosper.

The wealthy did keep more. They invested it overseas and our jobs followed. Industrial America began to disappear.

Just over a decade later, they are at it again, saying decrease taxes for the wealthy, \$245 billion, pay for it by cutting Medicare \$270 billion, by cutting Medicaid \$170 billion; let's cut back school lunches, student loans, WIC, Head Start.

Madam Speaker, fool America once, shame on you. Fool us twice, shame on America. Only in Washington, DC, could people on the other side of the aisle say they are saving Medicare by cutting \$270 billion out of it.

It reminds me again of the officer in Vietnam who said we saved the village by burning it to the ground. The Republicans are going to save Medicare and Medicaid by burning that to the ground, and our senior citizens are going to be the victims.

PRIVATIZATION SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED

(Mr. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I encourage all of my fellow Nebraskans to call and write often. I listen to what they have to say, and I am often persuaded by what they write.

Last week I received this postcard, which perhaps is the most persuasive that I have ever received. In this bag, Madam Speaker, is a note from a constituent regarding the privatization of the post office. This note was saying why we should not privatize the post office. But you see, this note came in what the post office calls as body bag. It comes with discarded mail, and they put it in here and say "We care."

Well, it is quite ironic that this kind of mail would come in this form and fashion, and the message in it would be not to privatize the post office.

Madam Speaker, in light of this, I want to encourage the continued privatization ideas that are coming forth in the 104th Congress. I want to continue to expand and look beyond at how we can make this a more efficient, a more better run Government.

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MEDISCARE

(Mrs. SCHROEDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Madam Speaker, the other side of the aisle keeps standing up and talking about MediScare, MediScare. The Democrats are scaring people. Well, the Democrats are not scaring people, it is their side of the aisle that scares people.

Luckily the American people have two ears and a brain. When they hear the other side of the aisle constantly saying the Medicare trust fund is in trouble, the Medicare trust fund is in trouble, so we are going to cut it \$274 billion, would that not scare you? Whoever said that you are going to help a trust fund by gutting a trust fund? Then they get angry when they find that the reason they are gutting the trust fund, the reason they are taking money out of their trust fund is to plug holes in the budget caused by the huge tax breaks for the fat cats that funded their campaign. That would scare me. That should scare you.

I think the American people are right on. When they have 1.4 percent taken out of their check every single paycheck and their employer adding the same thing to the trust fund, they want that trust fund to deal with future needs of seniors, not to help fat cats be able to bail out of the tax system.

PRESERVE MEDICARE

(Mr. HOKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HOKE. Madam Speaker, where is the credibility on this issue? Let us go back to 1993, the last time we had any votes on Social Security. My friends on the other side of the aisle cut Social Security by \$2 billion, \$2 billion that they took out of the paychecks of Social Security recipients.

What have we done on this side of the aisle since the beginning of the 104th Congress with respect to seniors' issues? We have done two very important things. No. 1 is we, in fact, restored that \$25 billion cut to Social Security recipients, and we also lifted the earnings test on the limitation for earned income for senior citizens.

We have the credibility on this issue. The trustees of the President have made it clear that the Medicare trust fund cannot sustain the system. We do not have enough money on it. It is going broke. If we do not do something to strengthen, improve, save, preserve Medicare, we will not have a Medicare. Heavenly days, is it not our responsibility, is it not your responsibility to join in this effort to preserve Medicare.

DODGING THE FACTS ABOUT MEDICARE CUTS

(Mr. OLIVER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. OLIVER. Madam Speaker, Republicans are dodging the facts about their Medicare cuts. Let me give some of those fact.

Fact No. 1, the Republicans will cut Medicare by \$270 billion. No. 2, Republicans cut that Medicare to give \$245 billion in tax breaks, mostly to people who do not need them, people making over \$100,000 a year, and you guessed it, all Members of Congress are in that category. Fact No. 3, drastic cuts in Medicare will make health care too expensive for many seniors.

Madam Speaker, we are not talking about just a little increase in out-of-pocket costs, we are talking about double the deductibles, double the premiums, and huge new copayments for services like home care. If seniors cannot afford to pay that much more, they must ration their health care or simply go without needed care.

The last fact, Madam Speaker, the Republican plan is that simple and it is that real.

MEDICARE

(Mr. KIM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material.)

Mr. KIM. Madam Speaker, this is a report released by the Medicare board of trustees. By the way, three of these trustees are from President Clinton's own Cabinet. The report is shocking. I found out that the Medicare trust fund would be bankrupt in 7 years.

Second, I found out from this report that there is tremendous waste and fraud in this Medicare Program that we Republicans recognize this Medicare crisis with. We have rolled up our sleeves and are working on a 7-year plan to save Medicare from bankruptcy.

Even our own President Clinton recognized the crisis. He has offered a 10-year program to save Medicare from bankruptcy.

It amazes me that they keep attacking us saying that we are cutting. There is nothing to cut. We are not cutting anything, we are trying to eliminate waste and fraud.

So I got hold of their copy, what kind of a plan they are offering. Here it is, the Democrat plan to save Medicare. Nothing. Blank. They have no idea, they have no plan to save Medicare from bankruptcy, except attacking, attacking, and bashing. I think it is a shame.

REPUBLICAN PROPOSAL TO PRIVATIZE MEDICARE

(Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, the Republican leadership has misled Americans with their proposal to reform Medicare. "Reform" means to "make something better" not "make it worse."

The Republicans' idea of reform is to dismantle Medicare and limit choice by

herding seniors into private managed care, requiring seniors to pay more in out-of-pocket expenses, while receiving less in vital health care services.

Seniors have more health needs.

It is very unlikely HMO's will enroll seniors without raising premiums or restricting hospital stays, medical testing, and prescriptions.

Paying more to receive less services is not making the system better.

Also, instead of using the Medicare savings to improve the health care system, the Republican reformers will take \$270 billion from Medicare to pay for a \$245 billion tax cut for the wealthy.

The goal of the Republican Medicare plan is clear: Raid Medicare and put our Nation's seniors at risk to pay for tax breaks that make the wealthy more healthy.

ECONOMICALLY TARGETED INVESTMENTS

(Mr. JONES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JONES. Madam Speaker, because President Clinton knows that he will never have the support of the Republican Congress to raise taxes, in order to fund his social projects and handouts, he is dipping into the \$3.5 trillion in private pension funds. The Clinton administration and his Department of Labor are encouraging pension fund managers all over the country to invest in economically targeted investments, or ETI's. ETI's are the administration's new scheme for harnessing private pension funds for social investment projects.

The American people should be able to sleep at night knowing that their retirement money is invested to give them the safest and most lucrative return possible. Their retirement money should not be improperly risked in ETI's. Madam Speaker, we must keep the Clinton administration's hands off America's pensions.

TRIBUTE TO LENORE DONNELLY

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, today I rise to say thank you and pay tribute to the historic career of Mrs. Lenore Donnelly, originally of Worcester, MA, now of Virginia, who, for the last 10 years, has served this House with distinction, vivacity, good humor, and professionalism as Chief of Pages on the Democratic side of the aisle. Today is her last official day in this capacity as she retires to pursue family and personal interests.

Lenny came to Washington to work for Senator John F. Kennedy in the Presidential campaign in 1959 and later became a member of his White House staff. She served in helping to arrange